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Woman gang-raped for 25 days in Mohammadpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 23-year-old woman had been shackled and gang-raped for 25 days in Mohammadpur.

She was rescued on Saturday after she managed to get the attention of locals by screaming. The locals then called in the police.

The woman shared a flat with a roommate who was allegedly complicit in the crime.

Three men took turns to rape her over the 25 days. They forced her into sexual acts and taped the abuse with the intent to release the footage, the victims said in the first information report.

She was shackled the entire time and only unchained when she had to be fed or use the toilet.

Mahfuzul Haque Bhuiyan, the officer-in-charge of the Mohammadpur Police Station said, "The victim is currently undergoing treatment and forensic examination at a hospital."

A case has been filed against her roommate, and suspects Saan, 26, Rocky, 29, and Himel, 27.

According to the FIR, her roommate introduced her to Saan. The five hung out on February 21 and on February 23, the three men visited the victim's flat around 4:30pm.

According to the FIR, Saan entered the victim's room and tried to establish a sexual relationship with her. After being refused, he promised to marry her and then raped her, the FIR read.

The three then left for the day.

Saan returned on February 27 and raped her again.

On March 5, the trio returned to the victim's flat

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A concrete mixer spews thick smoke, casting a shadow over the tranquil, green paddy field in Dumuria, Khulna. Locals say their peaceful and quiet neighbourhood has been ruined by the noisy machinery and unpleasant odour.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Khaleda Zia under close observation at CCU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has been kept under close



observation at Evercare Hospital's Coronary Care Unit (CCU).

AZM Zahid Hossain, her personal physician, said yesterday, "Khaleda Zia is being treated at the CCU under close observation at the advice of the doctors of the medical board. The board is constantly monitoring her treatment."

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia was taken to Evercare Hospital on Saturday night as her physical condition deteriorated.

"Our leader Begum Khaleda Zia is fighting for her life. Please pray for her recovery," BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said at an

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RESERVE FOREST Bid to stop soil theft costs forest officer his life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A dumper truck carrying stolen earth from a reserve forest crushed a forest officer to death in Cox's Bazar early yesterday when the official tried to stop the vehicle.

Sazzaduzzaman, 30, of Munshiganj's Gajaria upazila, was a beat officer of Dochhari Forest Beat of Ukhiya range under Cox's Bazar South Forest Division.

Forest guard Mohammad Ali, who was also injured in the incident, was undergoing treatment at the Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital.



Sazzaduzzaman

Sazzad and Ali went to Harinmara reserve forest in Ukhiya on a motorcycle around 3:00am. The earth was being taken away from a hill in the forest, said Shamim Hossain, officer-in-charge of Ukhiya Police Station, quoting forest officials.

The two signalled the truck to stop. Instead of stopping, the vehicle crushed them and sped away, said the OC.

Sazzad died on the spot, he added.

Gazi Shafiqul Alam, officer of Ukhiya range forest department, said the body of Sazzad was sent to the Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

Police seized the truck in the evening, he said.

"We have identified four to five people involved in the smuggling," he told The Daily Star.

The process of filing a case was underway.

Sarwar Alam, divisional officer of Cox's Bazar South Forest Division, who visited the spot, said, "Sajjad gave

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MARCH 22 CASE Let 3 Transcom officials come home without hindrance

HC orders authorities concerned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the authorities concerned to ensure that the top three executives of Transcom Group can surrender without any hindrance to the court within 72 hours after returning home in a case filed with Gulshan Police Station on March 22.

The HC bench of Justice Md Khasruzzaman and Justice KM Zahid Sarwar gave the order after holding a preliminary hearing on a writ petition.

The top three executives are Transcom Group Chairman Shahnaz Rahman, Chief Executive Officer Simeen Rahman, and Head of Transformation Zaraq Ayat Hossain.

Shahzreh Huq, the younger sister of Simeen, filed the case. According to the complaint, Shahzreh's

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UPAZILA POLLS Internal feuds worry AL leaders of Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League lawmakers, the so-called AL-independent MPs, and AL leaders yesterday blamed each other for friction within the party over upazila polls.

AL lawmakers pointed at the AL leaders, who ran and won as independents in the national polls, for creating feuds in the party while the independents blamed the AL MPs for creating groups of their followers, weakening the party, said sources.

Some ruling party leaders also alleged that the lawmakers were trying to shore up support by backing candidates in the upazila election, the first phase of which is scheduled for May 8.

A meeting was yesterday held between presidents and general secretaries of the party's organisational districts of Chattogram division and central leaders at the AL office in Tejgaon. The party's MPs and AL-independent lawmakers of the Chattogram division were also present.

At the meeting central leaders asked the grassroots to be united and not make the internal feuds worse centring the upazila polls, said sources.

The grassroots leaders, however, told the meeting that the friction within the party would worsen with multiple AL leaders running against each other in the upazila polls. They said this feud started ahead of the national polls.

Some meeting participants proposed extending party support to a single candidate in every upazila.

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Eid holidays should be extended by a day

Recommends govt committee; vacation may start April 9

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Cabinet Committee on Law and Order yesterday recommended adding a day to the start of the Eid-ul-Fitr vacation to make travel to hometowns smoother for holidaymakers.

It was suggested that April 9 be added to the declared three-day Eid holiday that starts on April 10.

Regarding the approval, a recommendation will be sent to the cabinet scheduled to meet today, said Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque, also the convener of the committee.

This year's Eid-ul-Fitr is expected to fall on April 11. The government earlier declared April 10-12 as Eid vacation. For most, the holidays will be extended by two days automatically as April 13 falls on Saturday and April 14 is Pahela Baishakh.

Scientists invent laser that could uncover hidden planets

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Undiscovered planets may soon be revealed, thanks to a technological breakthrough by scientists.



Physicists based at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh and Cambridge University have developed a form of astrometry -- a laser system that allows astronomers to observe tiny changes in the colour of starlight, revealing hidden planets

in the process.

Researchers say the technology could also improve understanding of how the universe naturally expands.

While astrometry has been used by scientists studying the cosmos for several years, they were previously limited mainly to the green-red part of the colour spectrum.

However, the breakthrough will allow scientists to utilise the ultraviolet to blue-green part of the spectrum, which means they will be able to discover even more secrets hidden in space.

Gaza truce talks to resume in Cairo

77 more Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes

AGENCIES

Israeli strikes killed 77 Palestinians in Gaza in 24 hours, health authorities said yesterday, as Egypt hosted an Israeli delegation for a new round of talks in a bid to secure a truce with Gaza's Hamas rulers.

The Israeli military said it killed a senior Islamic Jihad leader in a strike on a command centre in the courtyard of the Al-Aqsa Hospital in central Gaza. There was no immediate comment from Islamic Jihad.

Palestinian health officials and Hamas media said the strike hit several tents inside the Al-Aqsa Hospital, killing four people and wounding several, including five journalists.

At least 32,782 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's military offensive in Gaza since October 7, according to the health authorities.

Hamas would not be present at the talks in Cairo, an official told Reuters yesterday, as it waited to hear from mediators on whether a new Israeli offer was on the table.

In the southern Gaza Strip city of Khan Younis, Israeli forces continued to blockade the two main hospitals, and tanks shelled areas in the middle and eastern areas of the territory.

Palestinian health officials said an Israeli air strike

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Yaba peddling goes digital: Dealers ditch streets for online platforms P3



PRAYER TIMING APRIL 1



Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:34	12:45	4:45	6:18	7:45
JAMAAT 4:44	1:15	5:00	6:28	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN	APRIL	SEHRI	IFTAR
21	1		6:18
22	2	4:28	6:19
23	3	4:27	6:19



A Palestinian man injured in a Israeli air strike lies on a stretcher in a corridor at the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP